

July Session 1867

20th In the Name of God. Amen. I Jonathan Best of the County of Catawba and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory, but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, do make and declare this my last will & Testament, in manner and form following, that is to say:-

1st That my Executor (hereinafter named), shall provide for my body a decent burial, suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends, and pay all funeral expenses and furnish my grave with a decent Tombstone, together with all my just debts, however and to whomsoever owing out of the monies that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel

2nd of my estate to give and bequeath to my beloved wife Saloma to have to her use and benefit during the term of her natural life all of my property both real and personal remaining after my debts are paid or so arranged by my Executor as to secure unto my wife the plantation on which I now live, together with all other real and personal property and effects including all monies belonging to me at the time of my death.

3rd And after the death of my wife Saloma and that she has been furnished with a decent, Christian burial and a decent Tombstone put up at her grave, then all my property both real and personal including the plantation on which I now live with the increase thereof remaining at the death of my wife, shall go to and belong to my son Morris Rebbly Best or his bodily heirs, for and in consideration of taking care of and decently supporting his mother during her natural life.

4th And provided further that if my son Morris B. Best should die before his mother without leaving any bodily heirs, then the real estate including the plantation on which I now live and that I have disposed of in section 2nd and 3rd to my wife and my son Morris B. Best shall go to and belong to my son Jonathan B. Best or his bodily heirs under the same restrictions that I place my son Morris B. Best under to take care of and decently support his mother during her natural life, all my personal property and the increase thereof shall be sold and out of the monies accruing therefrom my daughter Harriet E. Setzer who married William Setzer shall have One hundred dollars and the remainder shall be equally divided between all of my children each to have alike without any reference to what each one has received of my estate heretofore except my son Marcus B. Best who is considered to have received his full share.

5th I further will and devise that after all my debts are paid if there is enough of money on hand that my daughter Harriet E. Setzer who married William Setzer shall have Fifty dollars in addition to her distributive share of my estate provided she does not get the one hundred allowed her in section 4th and if she gets the Fifty dollars allowed her in this section and section 4th should have to be carried into effect then she shall have only Fifty dollars of the One hundred.

6th I have given to my son Leas B. A. Best Two hundred & Fifty one dollars and to my son Marcus B. Best Six hundred and fifty dollars and to my son Alexander B. Best Four hundred and thirty dollars and to my son Jonathan B. Best Four hundred and eighty eight dollars and to my daughter Nancy E. Hale wife of Elias Hale Five hundred dollars and to my daughter Annira B. Deal wife of Hosea Deal Five hundred dollars and to my daughter Harriet E. Setzer wife of William Setzer One hundred dollars which is and shall be their parts & parcels of my estate not herein before provided for in this will.

7th And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty friends H. A. Torney my lawful Executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and Testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same and every part and clause thereof - hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills and Testaments by me heretofore made.

In witness whereof, I the said Jonathan Best do hereunto set my hand and seal this the 11th day of June A.D. 1867
Signed, sealed published
and declared by

Jonathan Best *Diato*